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The History of

The Rishworths of

Thornton in Craven

This history is based on information contained in the database included on the Rushworth website, and the book written by Lisa Wilson, 'Rishworth, A Thousand Years of Family History', with later information from personal research.

The history commences in the 10th century in the village of Rishworth near Halifax in Yorkshire and continues in the locality until the early 14th century, moving to the Calder Valley until the mid 16th century. From then there is a short period associated with Colne in Lancashire before relocating to Yorkshire and various villages close to Keighley in the Aire Valley. This is where our ancestors remained until the move over the hills to Ilkley in 1881. The move to Thornton in Craven occurred in the early 20th century where there was a presence until almost the end of the century.

Stanroyd Hall, Colne.

John Rishworth had acquired Stanroyd Hall after his marriage to Agnes Parker in 1529. He subsequently shared his time between Stanroyd Hall and Coley Hall.

Thomas Rishworth, who had been given Stanroyd Hall in 1566 died and was buried at Colne in 1604. He married Joanna Whitley and they had a son Thomas Rishworth and two daughters Ellen Rishworth and Jennet Rishworth.

According to www.Rushworth.com, Thomas Rishworth married an Ann Unknown at Kildwick. They had two sons Anthony Rishworth and John Rishworth.

Anthony Rishworth was born c1585 and married Francisca Unknown at Kildwick.

John Rishworth was christened at Kildwick in 1594.

The background to this information appears to be not confirmed. According to Lisa Wilson, Thomas Rishworth and Johanna Whitley had two further sons, Anthony Rishworth and Johannes (or John) Rishworth, and a daughter Margareta Rishworth (P68). It appears that the previously mentioned Thomas may well have been the brother of Anthony and John, rather than their father.

Anthony Rishworth married Isabel Unknown and Francisca Unknown. It is considered that Anthony Rishworth was probably the father of Thomas Rishworth and William Rishworth, who were made sole executors on his death in 1640/41.

Kildwick and the Surrounding Area.

The Kildwick parish originally contained several villages including Steeton, Eastburn and Silsden, which are now separately identifiable. It is also of course only a short distance down the Aire Valley to Keighley (also East and West Morton), Riddlesden and Bingley.

Thomas Rishworth had been given Stanroyd Hall in 1566 and had married Joanna, daughter of Richard Whitely, heir to lands in Hipperholme in 1573. All their children were however born at Ghyll (or Gill) Grange and baptised at Kildwick, although the baptism record for Anthony has not been found.

John Rishworth married Elizabeth and they were both recorded as head of the family of Gilgrange on their burials in 1672 and 1676 respectively.

However it is the sons of Anthony that we are more directly interested in.

According to www.Rushworth.com, Anthony Rishworth who had been born c1585 had married Francisca Unknown. They lived in Keighley from 1607-1619 and subsequently at West Morton. They had three sons, Thomas Rishworth, William Rishworth and John Rishworth.

Thomas Rishworth was born in 1607 and married Ann Boulton.

William Rishworth was christened at Keighley in 1619 and subsequently married Mary Driver.

John Rishworth married three times, to Elizabeth Unknown, Isabel Unknown and Martha Bolton.

Thomas Rishworth (or Rishforth) had five sons, Johannes (or John) Rishforth, Guilielmus (or William) Rishworth, Thomas Rishworth, Anthony Rishworth and George Rishworth.

William Rishworth was christened on 29 October 1648 at Kildwick. He married

Elizabeth, daughter of John and Mary Moorhouse of Addingham Moorside at Addingham on 9 October 1699. He was buried at Kildwick in 1705. On 23 September 1704 he is first mentioned as purchasing land in Eastburn. On 31 March 1705 he purchased a further 55 acres of land and two dwelling barns in Eastburn, in partnership. Shortly afterwards in June 1705 he died, leaving all his property in Addingham Moorside and Eastburn to his wife Elizabeth and his son and heir Thomas. William and Elizabeth had a daughter Ann, baptised at Kildwick in 1700, and a son Thomas Rishworth, both born at Gill Grange. William's will is shown as an Appendix and indicates that the children were too young to accept responsibilities and that guardians should initially look after the estate.

Thomas Rishworth was baptised at Kildwick in 1702 (just 3 years before his father's death in 1705) and died at Thwaites in 1772. He married Mary Clapham of Low Utley. They had two sons Thomas Rishworth and William Rishworth.

Thomas Rishworth was born in 1739 and died 1809. He built Thwaites House near Keighley.

William Rishworth was christened on 20 February 1742 and died on 28 April 1811 at Kildwick. He married Mary Midgley at Bingley on 3 August 1769. They had a daughter Martha Rishforth, then six sons, Thomas Rishworth, John Rishforth, William Rishforth, Midgley Rishworth, Henry Rishworth, Samuel Rishworth and Clapham Rishworth. The spellings are as shown in the Kildwick Parish Register. In the cases where the record had been made as Rishforth these were obviously errors at the time of entry and were not subsequently used. This is directly relevant since John Rishworth is a direct ancestor of ourselves and William Rishworth a direct ancestor of Lisa Wilson.

Martha Rishworth was baptised at Kildwick in 1772, then married Henry Wright at Keighley in 1802.

Thomas Rishworth was baptised at Kildwick in 1774, then married Sarah Rhodes.

John Rishworth was baptised at Kildwick in 1777 and died on 7 January 1855 at Kildwick. He married Martha Smith on 11 April 1799. Martha was born c1778 and died 5 May 1837.

William Rishworth was baptised at Kildwick on 11 April 1779 at Kildwick then married Mary Padget.

Midgley Rishworth was born on 18 April 1781, then married Mary Cure at Keighley in 1802.

Henry Rishworth was born on 8 December 1783 at Kildwick.

Samuel Rishworth was born 15 January 1784? at Eastburn and baptised at Kildwick in 1785? He married Elizabeth ??????

Clapham Rishworth was born in 1792 and died on 16 July 1801 at Eastburn.

John Rishworth and Martha Smith had five daughters and two sons, Mary, Elizabeth, Sarah, Martha and Emma, Charles and Thomas.

Mary Rishworth was born on 4 May 1799 at Kildwick and died 14 January 1818 at Kildwick.

Martha Rishworth was born on 4 May 1817 at Kildwick.

No other information is to hand with regards to Elizabeth, Sarah and Emma.

Charles Rishworth was born 26 November 1807 at Kildwick and died 13 January 1878 at Kildwick.

Thomas Rishworth was born 14 October 1810 at Steeton and died on 24 January 1880 at Kildwick. He married Fanny Thornber during the first quarter of 1839. Fanny was born in Silsden 8 May 1817 and died 27 January 1906. They had five sons and four daughters. Thomas Rishworth was a Tailor

Thornber Rishworth was born at Steeton in 1839 then married Emma ?????? Thornber was also a Tailor.

Henry Rishworth was born 1841.

Mary Rishworth was born 1843 at Kildwick.

John Rishworth was born 6 December 1845 at Eastburn. He married Mary Elizabeth Lantaff at Ilkley on 30 July 1881.

Charles Rishworth was born 1849.

Martha Rishworth was born 1851

Emma Rishworth was born c1854.

Fanny Rishworth was born c1854.

Samuel Rishworth was born c1857.

John Rishworth and Mary Elizabeth Lantaff had two sons and six daughters. John followed his father and was also a Tailor. At the time of the census early in 1881 he was recorded as still living with his mother at Garden Cottage, Steeton.

The same census recorded Mary Elizabeth Lantaff as being employed as a servant, residing with her employers, Wm.T. and Kate Potter at Cross Beck Road, Ilkley. Mary Elizabeth was born at St. Ives, Oldhurst, Huntingdon c1856.

Arthur Rishworth was born 29 October 1881. So far as I recall he never married. The 1901 census recorded that he was an Apprentice Cabinet Maker.

Emma Rishworth was born 1 January 1883.

Fanny Rishworth was born 29 October 1884.

Harry Rishworth was born 24 March 1886.

Arthur, Emma, Fanny and Harry were all christened at Ilkley on 5 September

1887. The family address was stated to be Ash Grove.

Amy Rishworth was born 10 October 1889.

Alice Rishworth was born 10 January 1888.

Amy and Alice were both christened at Ilkley on 25 May 1890, the address being more positively stated to be 59, Ash Grove.

Maggie Rishworth was born on October 1(???) 1893 and christened at Ilkley on 23 July 1893???

Annie Rishworth (born c1894) was christened at Ilkley on 10 December 1902. The address was now stated to be 23, Ashland Terrace.

23, Ashland Terrace was the family address at the time of the 1901 census, when Annie was said to be six years old.

At the time of the 1901 census all the family except for Harry were living at the family home at 23 Ashland Terrace, Ilkley. Additionally the house was occupied by a boarder, William Harris Hotchkiss, whose profession is described (with abbreviations) as Priest Cath Apol of Church.

Harry Rishworth had left the family house and was residing with his Uncle Henry Rishworth and wife Mary at their farm 'Bracken' at Silsden, and was employed as a 'farm servant'. Examination of a current map indicates 'Low Bracken Farm' and 'High Bracken Farm'. The latter is probably the farm Grandad described to me as being 'high on the moors above Silsden, and a right bleak spot' and so far as I am aware the place where he continued to live and work until his move to Thornton in Craven.

Thornton in Craven

Harry Rishworth was born in Ilkley in 1886, but was the first member of the family to leave his parents home, initially working on his Uncle's farm on Silsden Moor.

Harry Rishworth married Mary Alice Lister in early 1908, somewhere in the Skipton registration district, possibly at Thornton in Craven, but yet to be established. He lived at Thornton in Craven until his death (in hospital at Skipton) on 25 December 1946. He was buried at Thornton in Craven on 28 December 1946. His home Beech Cottage was at the top end of the village green, now part of the enlarged former farm house. During his latter years he was separated from his wife.

Mary Alice had been born in Blackburn c1889 and was still living there at the time of the 1901 census. This shows that Richard Lister and his wife Betsy Ann lived at 63, Alker Street, Blackburn. Richard was described as a 'cotton worker', born c1852.

The eldest daughter Catherine A. Lister was born c1882 and was a cotton weaver.

The only son, William Lister was born c1888.

Mary Alice was the next daughter born c1889.

Nancy Lister was born c1893.

Betsy Lister was born c1895.

It is suspected that the entire family moved to Barnoldswick, since Mary Alice, Nancy and Betsy all continued to live in the area until their deaths.

Mary Alice Rishworth lived at 20, Wellhouse Road, Barnoldswick during the last years of her life, so far as I am aware since at least 1940. She died 14 January 1959 and was buried at Thornton in Craven 17 January 1959.

Harry Rishworth and Mary Alice had three sons, all believed to have been born at Thornton in Craven.

William Rishworth was born c. August 1908 He subsequently married Dora ????? of Colne, c1950, then they emigrated to Australia c1955. They had no children. William died c1965.

John Rishworth was born 16 November 1909. He married Margaret Henderson Stephens at Thornton in Craven on 4 July 1930. He died on 2 September 1986. Although he always referred to living at Thornton in Craven for all of his life, there was a short period early in the marriage when he lived at nearby Kelbrook.

Margaret Henderson Stephens was born on 16 June 1906 at Murton, Co.Durham. She died at Thornton in Craven on 28 August 1998, bringing an end to almost a century of the Rishworth life in Thornton in Craven.

Margaret had left her parents home in Co. Durham to work as a servant for the Clay family at Thornton Manor House. During the last few weeks of her life she was cared for at the Thornton Manor Nursing Home, which had been converted for this use some years earlier.

Margaret was the eldest child of Robert Stephens and his wife Elizabeth Olaman

Other children were:

Jack

Blanche

Robert

Bessie

The parents of Robert Stephens had originated at Liskeard, Cornwall where they had married prior to moving from one end of the country to the other, in the 1860s, presumably due to the contraction of the Cornish tin mining industry. At the 1901 census all male members of the Stephens family were employed in the coal mining industry at Murton Colliery.

John and Margaret had two sons, Ronald and Robert, and a daughter Elizabeth.

Harry Rishworth was born at Beech House, Thornton in Craven on 27 January 1915, and baptised on 4 April 1915. He married Martha Lister c1934. (A second generation Harry Rishworth marrying a Lister, but a completely different family from the Aire Valley). They had a son Harry and a daughter Margaret.

Ronald Rishworth was born at 67, Dotcliff Road, Kelbrook on 26 November 1932 and baptised at Thornton in Craven on 18 December 1932. He emigrated to Holland in 1952 and continues to live there.

Robert Rishworth was born at 1, Station Road, Thornton in Craven on 19 September 1937, and baptised at Thornton in Craven on 17 October 1937. He has lived in the counties of Durham, Northumberland and Warwickshire, before returning to Yorkshire in 1985. He currently lives at Filey.

Elizabeth Rishworth was born at School House, Thornton in Craven on 3 July 1939, and baptised at Thornton in Craven on 6 August 1939. She married Peter Milner of Skipton on 21 March 1959 and has lived in Skipton since this date.